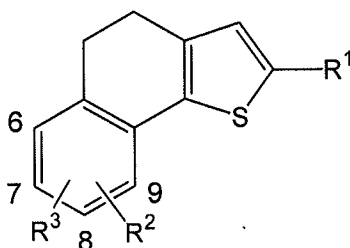


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative expressed by the formula:



(wherein R¹ is a C₁ to C₁₀ 1-hydroxyalkyl group or a C₁ to C₁₀ acyl group, and R² and R³ separately substitute in the 6-, 7-, 8-, or 9-positions, and are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group, a C₁ to C₅ alkenyloxy group, a C₁ to C₅ alkynyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, an acetyl group, or a group expressed by the formula -NR⁴R⁵ (wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, or a benzyl group), or R² and R³ are bonded together to form an ethylenedioxy group, provided that when R¹ is an acyl group and R² is a hydrogen atom, then R³ is neither a hydrogen atom nor an acetyl group), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original): The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is a 1-hydroxyethyl group, and R² and R³ are each independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl

group, a hydroxy group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group, a C₁ to C₅ alkenyloxy group, a C₁ to C₅ alkynyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, an acetyl group, or a group expressed by the formula -NR⁴R⁵ (wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, or a benzyl group), or R² and R³ are bonded together to form an ethylenedioxy group.

3. (original): The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein R¹ is an acetyl group, R² is a halogen atom, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group, a C₁ to C₅ alkenyloxy group, a C₁ to C₅ alkynyloxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, or a group expressed by the formula -NR⁴R⁵ (wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, or a benzyl group), and R³ is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, a C₁ to C₅ alkenyl group, a C₁ to C₅ alkynyl group, a hydroxy group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group, a benzyloxy group, a nitro group, or a group expressed by the formula -NR⁶R⁷ (wherein R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently a hydrogen atom, an acetyl group, a trifluoroacetyl group, a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group, or a benzyl group), or R² and R³ are bonded together to form an ethylenedioxy group.

4. (original): The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 2, wherein R¹ is a 1-hydroxyethyl group and R² and R³ are each independently a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkoxy group.

5. (original): The 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to Claim 3, wherein R^1 is an acetyl group and R^2 and R^3 are each independently a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group or a C_1 to C_{10} alkoxy group.

6. (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

7. (original): A hypotriglyceridemic agent whose active ingredient is the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

8. (original): A hypoglycemic agent whose active ingredient is the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.

9. (currently amended): An agent for ~~preventing or treating~~ diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver, obesity, impaired glucose tolerance, diabetes complications, metabolic syndrome, and syndrome X, whose active ingredient is the 4,5-dihydronaphtho[1,2-b]thiophene derivative or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 5.